Statement

The proposed construction of shallow tubewells / dugwells in selected States for special foodgrains production programme and achievements during 1988-89.

States	Number of shallow tube wells/dugwells proposed for construction	Number of shallow tubewells/dugwells constructed.
Andhra Pradesh	41390	13409 (upto January, 1989)
Assam	8150	182 (upto 15-2-1989)
Bihar	106580	30312 (upto January, 1989)
Gujarat	2160	1287 (upto December, 1989)
Haryana	13400	Not reported
Karnataka	30000	Not reported
Madhya Pradesh	30000	17903
Maharashtra	26070	Not reported
Orissa	48240	3500 (upto February, 1989)
Tamil Nadu	13400	9025 (upto February, 1989)
Uttar Pradesh	212170	125000 (upto February, 1989)
West Bengal	61270	3496 (upto February, 1989)
TOTAL:	592830	204115

Food subsidy on essential commodities

1859. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the retail prices of essential commodities during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to continue with the food subsidy against the pressure of World Bank and other international authorities; and

(c) whether Government propose to supply essential commodities and free Dhoti and Saree to poor people?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D L BAITHA): (a) A statement indicating the month-end retail prices of selected commodities at selcted centres for the last 3 years and upto February, 1989 is annexed [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 102].

(b) There is no proposal to discontinue food subsidies.

(c) Some key essential commodities viz. wheat, rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth are already being supplied through the Public Distribution System to the people, including the poor. A proposal has been made in the Speech of the Finance Minister presenting Central Government's budget for 1989-90 for a new programme for free distribution of saris to destitute women.

Difference in prices of grocery items at Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar Stores

1860. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of grocery items at Super Bazar, are higher as compared to prices at Kendriya Bhandar Stores;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in Statesman of 10th February, 1989 under the caption "Prices Lower at Kendriya Bhandar";

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto and steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) The rates of some of the grocery items (including pulses) in Kendriya Bhandar, some-time are lower than those in Super Bazar.

(b) to (d) The difference in the prices of pulses between those at Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar has attracted the attention of the management of the Super Bazar. Steps to maintain the prices of pulses at most competitive rates have already been taken by the Super Bazar, Delhi.

Rise in milk prices

1861. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep rise in milk prices and the statement made by P. R. O. of Mother Dairy as appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 13.1.89 that 90 per cent of cost paid by consumers goes to milk producers;

(b) whether Government would substentiate this statement specially since Mother Dairy is using on an average 70-80 per cent of imported low priced or gifted milk solids received as gifts or commercially; and

(c) whether it is a also a fact that price hike was due to losses and expenditure incurred by Mother Dairy on its another wasteful project of Fruits and Vegetables for which separate accounts are not being maintained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Public Relations Officers (P.R.P.) Mother Dairy, Delhi, had stated that 90% of the cost paid by the consumers goes to the milk producers co-operatives. Mother Dairy procures the fresh milk from the State Cooperative Dairy Federations. The shortfall, if any, in procurement as compared to the demand from its vending outlets, is made up by recombining Skim Milk Powder and Butter Oil/Butter purchased from National Dairy Development Board's pooled stocks. These stocks include imported as well as indigenously produced commodities